

May-June, 2019

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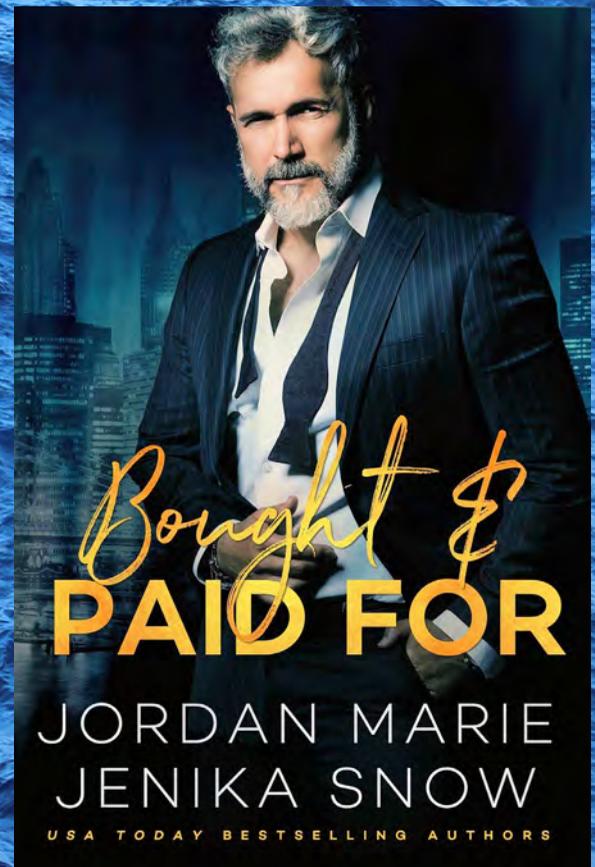


Maria Papalia-Meier is a runner.
Read her remarkable interview and be inspired!

Reviews!

Reviews!

Reviews!



Meet Debra Parmley's Latest Sensational Model-- Wander





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Cover Photos--The Caribbean Sea and flowers on page 3 by Louise



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Your Book is Written

by Pamela Ackerson

Get the book edited. I know. You've heard that multiple times. Now, write another one. Yes, you read that correctly. Get started on another story or book.

Decide whether you want to self-publish or find a publisher. There are several preparations that need to be done, things you need to do before you send queries to publishers.

First and foremost, do research on different publishers. Find out what they publish, if they're accepting queries, and what their requirements are prior to contacting them. Follow their submission requirements to the T. If you don't, your manuscript will be immediately dismissed. They won't even look at it.

Find out where the publisher markets their authors and where they advertise.

Do a bit of research and see who their authors are and if you have them on your social media sites. If you do, ask them if they're happy. Do it discretely. If there's a problem, they'll most likely ask you if they can message you or ask if you can message them. That way, anything negative will be kept between you and the author, not blasted on the site, and possibly cause problems in the future.

Some publishers will only work with agents. Some publishers have slush piles for unsolicited queries. A slush pile is a large collection of unsolicited book queries that an editor may or may not get to. There are hundreds sitting there begging to be looked at and accepted. It's harder now to get your book pulled from a slush pile than it was twenty years ago, especially if the slush pile's in an electronic folder.

If you want to take the chance of sending an unsolicited query, you better have an absolutely stand out blurb in your subject line.

Remember all those people I recommended that you follow and friend on those networking sites and groups that you joined? There should be publishers in there. Have you been sharing their stuff? Reading their blogs? Responding to their blogs? Is your name recognizable to them?

If your answer is yes, then you've developed an online relationship that could possibly move forward. Even if they're not accepting queries, they may know a publisher who's looking for what you've written.

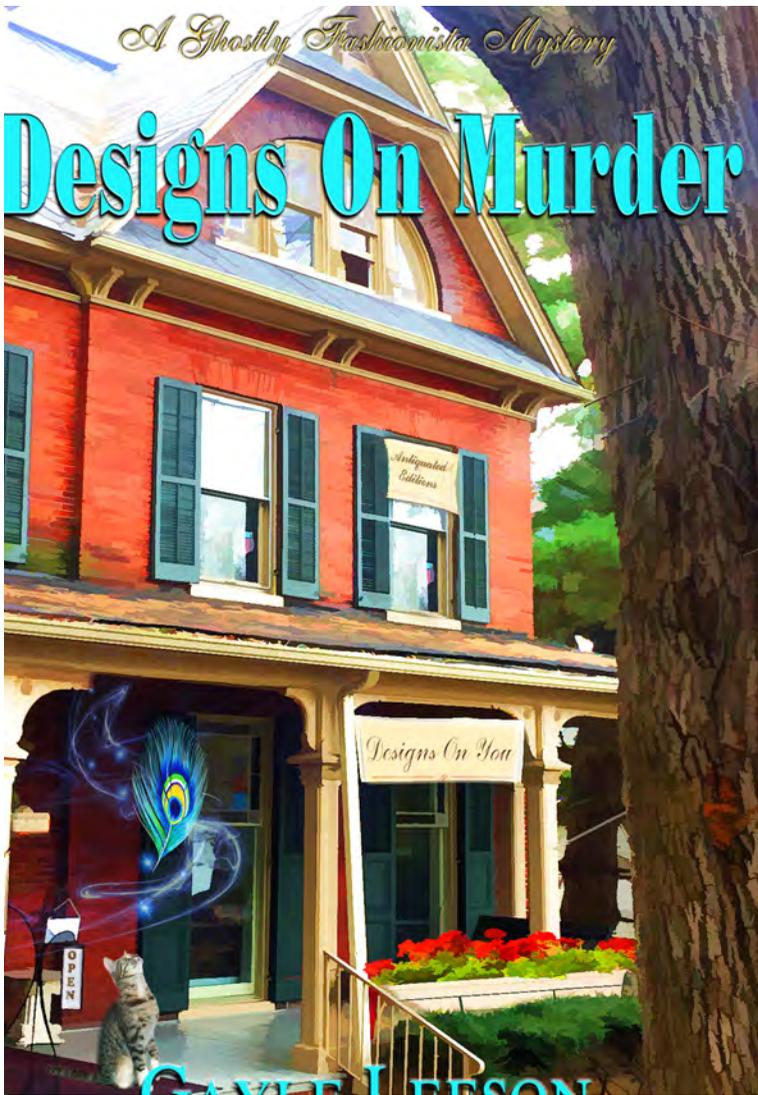


A strong suggestion that helps you improve your writing: Get a professional to edit your book before you send queries to publishers or agents. Just one edit run should do. It doesn't have to be a thorough edit, the publisher will have someone editing your book and helping you as much as possible.

Regardless, of whether you're self-publishing or not, I can't say this enough. Please get it edited by a professional. Not a friend who's good at reading, but an editor who has the proper credentials and qualifications.

Your targeted publisher's going to want to see how active you are in the book industry. Have you attended any workshops, conferences, events? Do you belong to a writers 'group? Do you have a web page? Blog? What are the social media sites where you're active?

Most of all, what's your marketing and advertising plan if they accept your manuscript? If you're accepted by a publisher, you need to tell them what your plan is, and how you plan to promote your book. If you choose to self-publish, you still need to sit down and create a marketing and advertising plan.



*What if
you discovered
your lively new
friend wasn't
really... alive?*

GayleLeeson.com
@GayleTrent

You can either build a website prior to sending a query to the publisher or wait until you've been accepted. I'd recommend building your website first. That way, the publisher can see how active you are and how much you're trying to stay interactive with social media.

Purchase *Be More Successful with Marketing and AdvertiZING* at your favorite bookstore or on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

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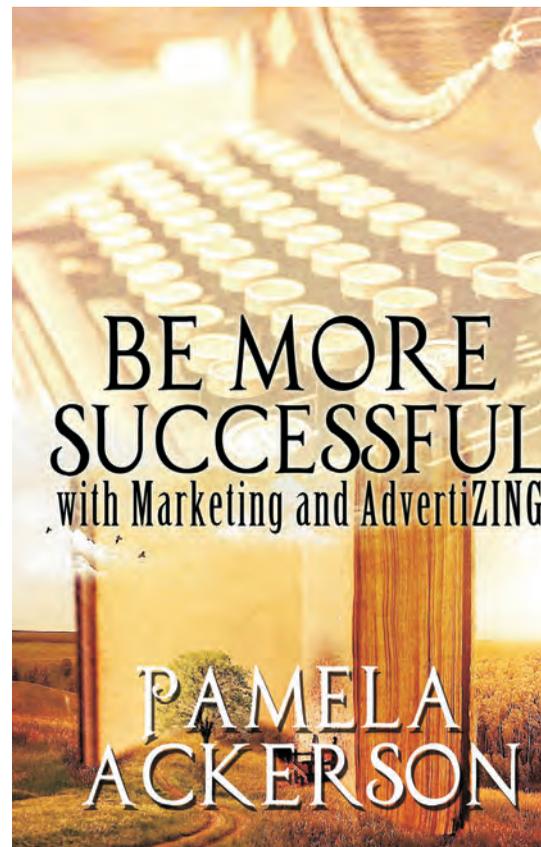
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Need Swag?

Crafty Connie Help Authors With Their Brands



Connie Penn is the crafty swag designer behind Crafty McSwaggerton. Born in Pensacola, Florida, and raised in Atmore, Alabama, she gave up her tomboy ways and started crafting to honor her mother, who had a joy of crafting. She started Crafty McSwaggerton in 2014 to help through the difficult time when her mom was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer.

She lost her the following year, but continued the business, hoping to make her proud. She has survived many personal struggles, but still found her happily-ever-after with her husband, three kids, and two grand babies. She's proud to announce she's about to be blessed with two more grand babies in September 2019! (Not twins)

Crafty McSwaggerton was a blessing she created to help make authors very unique and beautiful swag at the lowest cost possible. She has



Some of Connie's swag

In the land of Faerie only the bold will survive...

GRACE LOGAN
AND THE
GOBLIN BONES



In the world of Faerie, only the bold will survive.

PAM BINDER

Grace enters the underworld of the Goblins with outcasts: a changling abandoned by her Faerie mother at birth, and a mysterious young man who harbors a dark secret.

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Connie offers table runners, drool towels, lens cloths, double-sided plastic keychains, coasters, and open book handle sevring trays, plaques, and much more.

Find her on:

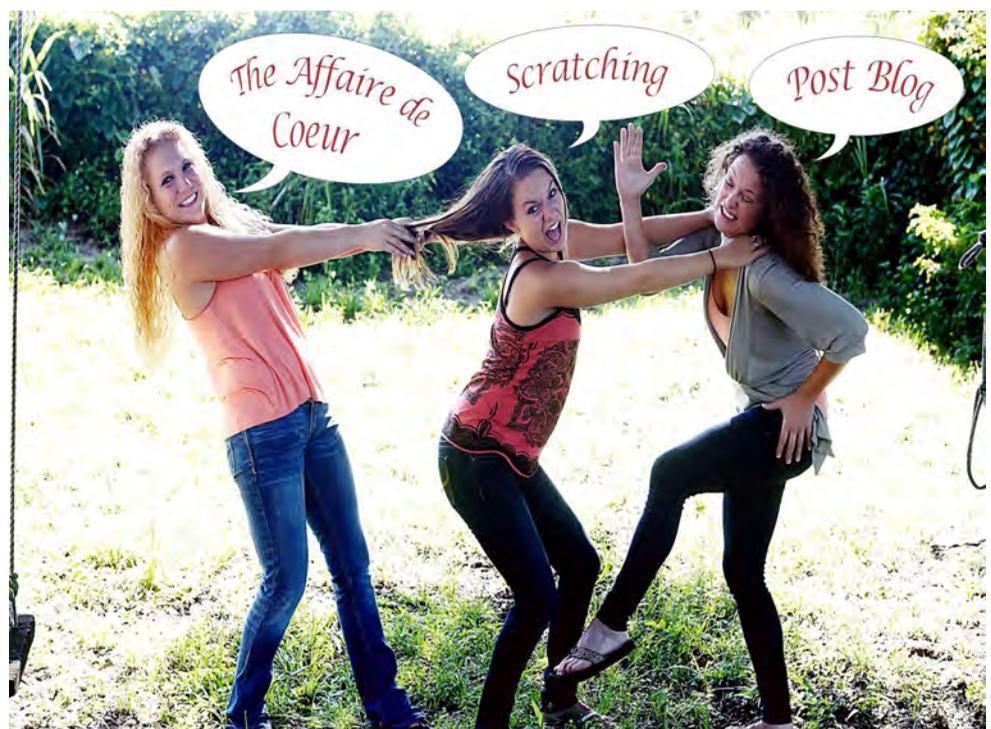
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Instagram - [Crafty_McSwaggerton](https://www.instagram.com/Crafty_McSwaggerton)



The AdC Spotlight is on...

Maria Papalia-Meier

Maria Papalia-Meier is a fighter. She may have been KO'd, and down for the count, but she proved them wrong. I am a Runner is about surviving sepsis, a coma, and amputation.

Maria has a BBA with an emphasis in Human Resources and has worked for Fed-Ex for twenty years. As an athlete, she has many accomplishments. Before her battle with the river of death she'd competed and ran in multiple 5K's. She was told she'd never run again. She proved the naysayers wrong. Her athletic accomplishments include running in a 5K and a 1/2 Marathon.



I am a Runner - the Memoirs of a Sepsis Survivor is available in print and e-book.

AdC: *What inspired you to write this story?*

MPM: I am hoping my story will help

motivate others to never give up. My journey was not easy but if you have an end goal in mind, and live each day to reach that goal, you will succeed. Nothing is impossible!

AdC: *Tell us about your new book.*

MPM: It is a story of who I was, what I went through after surviving sepsis, and who I became.

AdC: *What motivates you for a perfect running day?*

MPM: Somedays when I don't feel like running, when it is cold and wet, I am reminded that I have been given the gift to run again and every day I can is a blessing. When I think back to the days when I was told I couldn't, and now I can, I feel like if I don't, I am not using the blessing I was given. After a run, the feeling of accomplishment I have and the way it makes me feel can't be explained.

AdC: *What is your favorite thing about being a runner?*

MPM: The peace it gives me, it relaxes me. I try and block out all the things that stress me and look at the beauty that surrounds me. I live in the moment and forget reality for a bit.

AdC: *Where do you get your inspiration?*

MPM: I get my inspiration from my "cheerleaders." The people that have seen me go through the struggles I have had with my feet and being able to run again. When they tell me how strong I am. I am also inspired when they tell me how I have helped inspire them,

AdC: *What is the most difficult thing you had to conquer?*

MPM: The ups and downs are hard. Learning how to deal with the setbacks and still motivate myself to move forward and not give up. There were times when I had worked so hard and then I would have a huge setback and I would want to quit. But in the back of my mind I never wanted to be the girl who said, "I remember when I used to!" I wanted to be the girl who was still



I am a Runner.

**I have won the struggle
through the river of death.**

**I have awoken stronger...
better.**

This is my story.

facebook.com/papaliameier

@PapaliaMeier

Maria Papalia-Meier

doing it.

AdC: *Pass on some words of wisdom, to those seeking help in situations like this.*

MPM: Never give up. Nothing in life working for is ever easy. No one is going to hold you by the hand and walk you step-by-step and tell you what you need to do. You need to do it on your own, somethings will work, some things won't but you have to remind yourself everyday of what your goal is, and live each day working towards reaching that goal. I would wake up each day and say what steps I need to take today so I can work towards my goal to run again. Not every step you take will be a big one, count the little victories and have pa-

tience, which, by the way, I don't have, so this was a huge struggle for me. Be open minded, try things you never thought you would try.

AdC: Please give us the following contact information:

Twitter-@Pap3919Meier

Facebook - Maria Papalia-Meier

Instagram - papaliameier

AdC *Thank you. It's been an inspiration.*





Sneak Peek

I am a Runner, the Memoirs of a Sepsis Survivor

by Maria Papalia-Meier

What I have told and will continue to tell people: Never give up. Willpower, from the mind and heart, is the whole shebang. It's what's been and what will be.

I went from being the sickest person to running a half-marathon. I turned my back on the Angel of Death. It wasn't my time. I have fought the reaper and fought the river of death. I accepted the compelling and intimidating challenges that kept pummeling me in the face.

I merely punched back.

People are the most complex living beings in our world. I was one of those people who always exaggerated how bad I felt.

Never again. I know and understand too much. Like an inexperienced boxer in the ring, I was struck down and knocked out. But I wouldn't let the beast keep me down. I refused to succumb to my own wallowing tears of woe.

I was no longer the same person I was before my surgeries. I wasn't about to obsess over the negative. Reality was a kicker.

I was being realistic.

Toes don't grow back.

I've accepted what has happened. I didn't want to, but honestly, was there another option? I came to terms with what I had to do and had every intention of controlling what I could in my life.

Here are the brutal facts:

I was in excruciating pain, with what seemed like never-ending twists of random setbacks. The beast tried to break me, make me bend in places I never thought I'd go. I refused to die. I wouldn't give in to the weakness of surrender.

I was repulsed by my feebleness.

I shook my fist at my mortality.

I was angry.

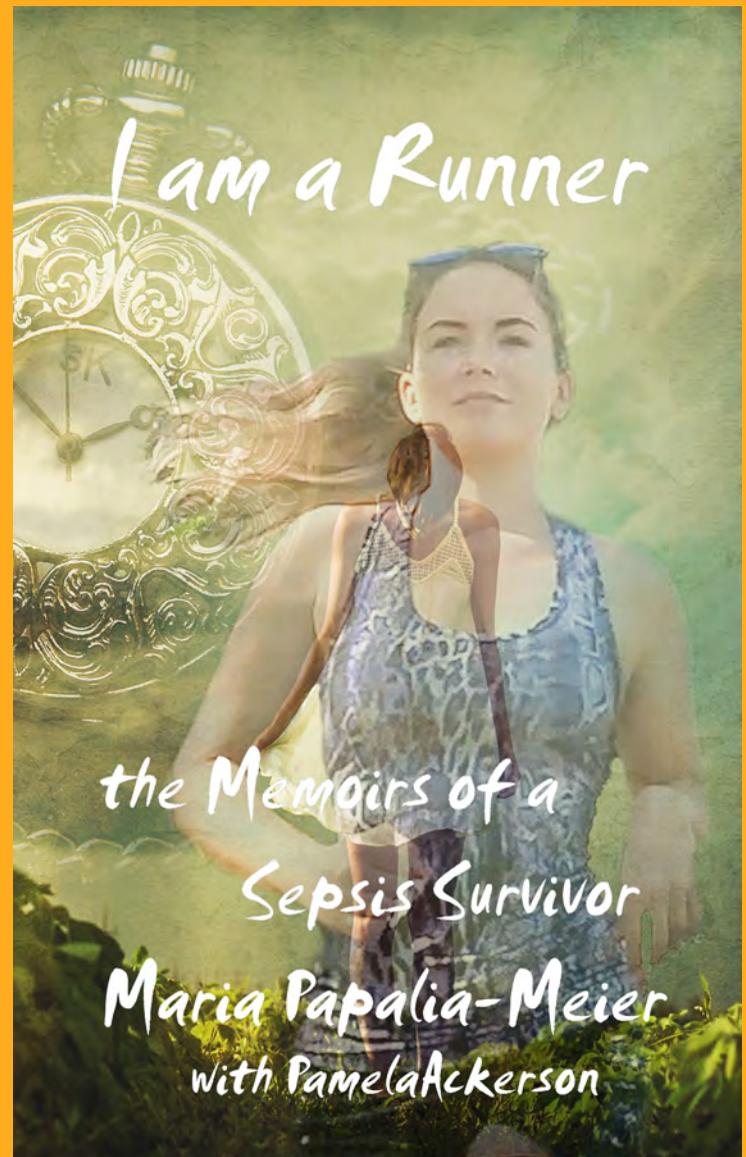
I was terrified.

I was happy to be alive.

I was loved.

Because of all of those and many more, because of who I was, it only made me stronger. It fastened and deepened the conviction of survival in my heart.

I almost lost my life. It would've been a pretty hefty



price to pay for a neglected strep infection.

Who knew such a minor thing could become so fatal?

Debra Parmley's Cover Model Corner

with Wander Aguiar

I'm thrilled to share my latest Cover Model Corner interview with you, chatting with photographer and cover model, Wander Aguiar. Wander has years of experience as a model being photographed and as a photographer. He has an artist's eye for photography and knows this world from both sides. However, today we are chatting primarily about his life as a cover model. I met Wander last year at a military romance event in Valley Forge, PA, and saw him again recently at BOBASE in St. Augustine, FL, and was thrilled when he agreed to an interview.



DP: Wander, what was the first cover you appeared on and how did this come about?

WA: First, I'd love to thank you for having me here, and it's such a pleasure to be interviewed by you.

Well, back to your question, my first cover was a long time ago back home in Brazil where I was featured on a wedding magazine. It was all set up with my agent back then, but it was all really exciting; the photo shoot and, of course, the cover itself.

DP: A wedding shoot in Brazil, how romantic! That's the kind of wedding young girls dream of. If you could do a photo shoot anywhere in the world for a cover, where would you most want to

go? What sort of shoot would it be?

WA: I have always liked Greece, especially the island of Santorini, so definitely would be there. As far as concept, I would say anything there would be simply magical.

DP: A wonderful romantic setting. I agree it would be magical. I hope you will do a shoot there one day! Beyond romance novel cover shots, what other projects or jobs keep you busy?

WA: I have a very busy schedule these days. Besides shooting for the covers, I also shoot products and work with a few brands and fashion magazines. When I am not doing the shoots, I still have to create some time to manage the agency ZINK MODELS and then there is the traveling schedule to attend all these events. What is this thing they call rest?

DP: Rest. I think you must do that in between, on planes, buses and cars! You are a very busy man! What's your favorite quote?

WA: "YOU ARE YOUR ONLY LIMIT!"

DP: I love that. That should be taught to us from birth. If you wrote a book, what would it be about?

WA: I like books/movies based on real life, so it definitely would be in that direction. Something that will leave others with a positive outlook.

DP: I would read that book! I hope one day you write it! Now this question is almost always asked in interviews because your fitness level is beyond the average persons'. What is your exercise





routine and what sort of nutrition plan do you follow to achieve and maintain your level of fitness?

WA: I try to maintain a very healthy lifestyle and that's the secret in my opinion. It is your lifestyle and physical ability that will determine your fitness level, so keep a balanced diet and exercise every day. I go to the gym right after my coffee for one hour and do some cardio. Then I get back, get my protein shake or bar, eat small portions every three hours and later, around 6 or 7 pm, go back to the gym for some weights. Everything has to be done with balance and without killing yourself, we must enjoy doing it otherwise it won't work. As part of it, I have never smoked and don't drink much either which helps a lot, too.

DP: *A very healthy lifestyle! You are a great example of how to stay fit and healthy, and to look good at any age. And to live a long and healthy life! For our readers who want to start, can you*

share three simple fitness tips the average romance reader could do every day to stay healthy?

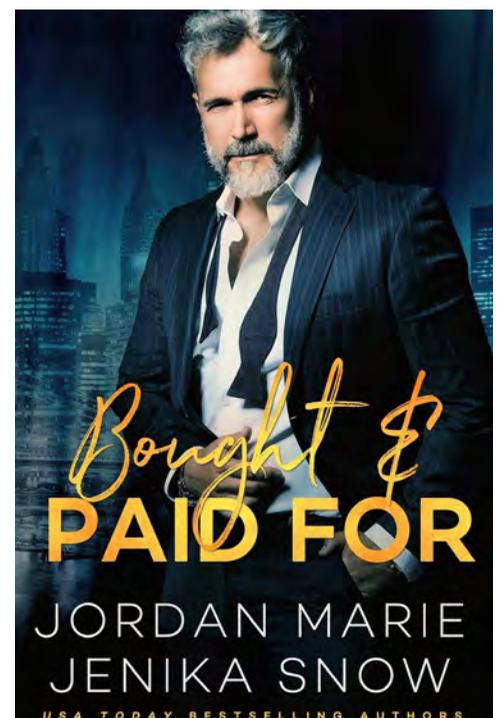
WA: Watch what you eat, try healthy alternatives and stick to small portions more often. Cut out the smoking and minimize your alcohol. Try to, at least, do some kind of exercise that you could do at home like burpees/squats and push-ups. Try at least 3 reps of 20 for each every day or every other day. That would start getting you into a routine. Working out doesn't always have to cost a lot of money. There are many things you can do at home to stay active.

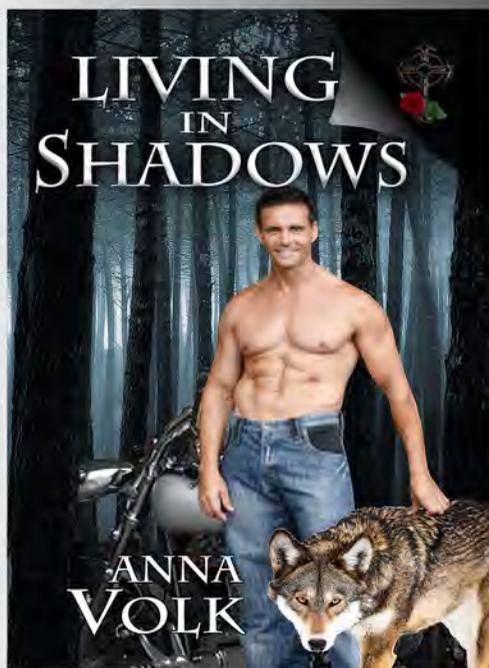
DP: *Thank you for these great tips. Now it's your birthday dinner and the calories don't count. What's on the menu and what are you drinking?*

WA: In that case I'd go for a good Italian dinner - anything besides fish, since I'm allergic to it! As for my drink, while I know it doesn't really go with

Italian, I gotta have some Tequila. Oh, and Canollis for dessert.

DP: *Italian dinners can also be romantic. Please describe the perfect*





Four Powerful Couples All Living in Shadows Walking in Shadows

“I’ll treasure it.”

She reached up and wrapped her arms around his neck, her tears falling on the bare skin of his neck.

Dylan gently rubbed her back.
“And I’ll treasure you darlin’.”

[Facebook.com/annasjourneytosuccess](https://www.facebook.com/annasjourneytosuccess)
[Amazon.com/Anna-Volk](https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Volk)



romantic evening.

WA: Good company, nice food, watching the ocean on a private beach.

DP: *That sounds lovely. Please share one unusual fact about you or your life.*

WA: Believe it or not, I used to be very shy. So shy that I could not even leave my house in shorts to buy milk at the

corner. Yeah, it was a long time ago, and I’m glad I have overcome that phase and allow myself to just be me.

DP: *I’m glad you did, too, and I’m enjoying getting to know you.*

Eight quickie questions:

DP: *Watching the sunrise or watching the sunset and the stars?*

WA: Sunset since I like the night.

DP: *The beach or the mountains?*

WA: I can find peace in both but give me the beach.

DP: *Primitive camping or luxury hotel?*

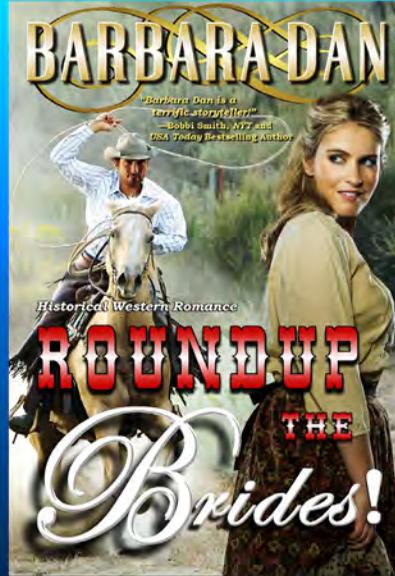
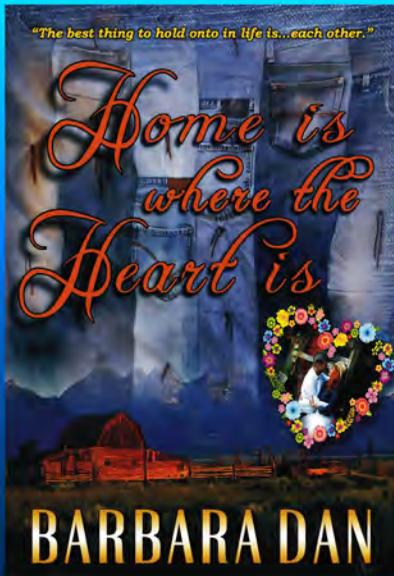
WA: Definitely a LUXURY HOTEL – lol!

DP: *Snow skiing or water skiing?*

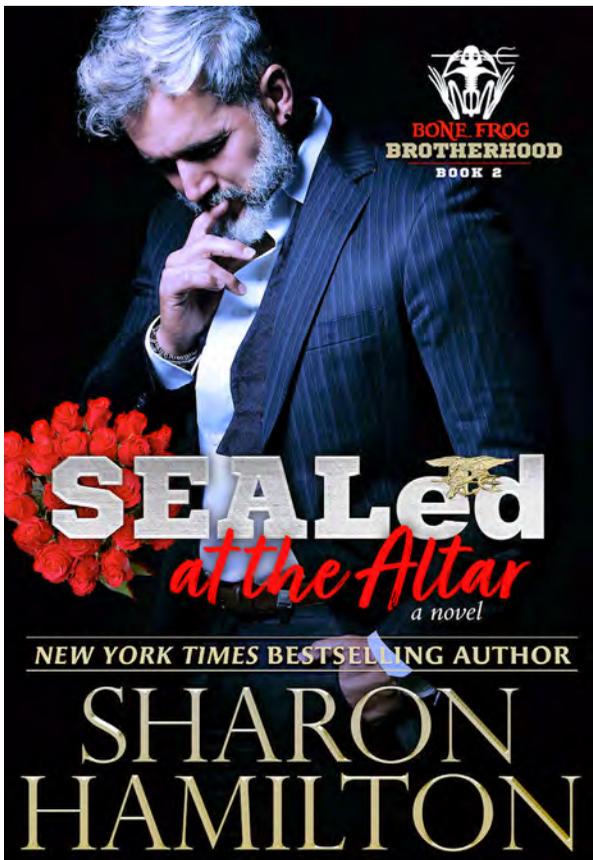
WA: Snow skiing.

DP: *Favorite movie?*

WA: I like all the Marvel movies.



The Happy Valley Series
 Heartwarming, historical romance
 Available in print and e-book
 BarbaraDan.com



DP: Best book you ever read?

WA: *The Body Language*. It's about how your body reacts to your feelings.

DP: Favorite sport to play?

WA: Volleyball.

DP: Favorite sport to watch?

WA: Volleyball.

DP: Wander, thank you for visiting with me today. It's been fun getting to know you. Before we say goodbye, how can fans stay up to date on your latest news? Do you have any news or announcements to share?

WA: Thanks again for the opportunity. Today was fun chatting with you. Make sure to follow me on social media. Peace and love - Wander

DP: I certainly will!

Questions from readers in the seasoned romance FB group:

DP: Are you happier with yourself today, than you were in your 20's?

WA: Yes, I'm much happier here in my 50's. I don't have the six pack abs anymore but won't trade my experience and



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AUGUST 1st - 4th - 2019

Indie Bookfest
70+ Authors
Celebrating Indie,
Hybrid, and Traditional
Authors and Artists

Parties, Panels,
Workshops, and More!

FREE BOOK SIGNING
August 3rd, 2019
3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

all I have lived for it. I definitely would go back in time and live all over again if I could bring the mindset I have today - would be a fun journey.

DP: *Which of your professional photos is your favorite?*

WA: OMG, I don't know! I have so many and sometimes I get surprised when I see an older image that I love and was lost in time. As my coach used to say to me, "Wander, your favorite is always the next shot since you are such a perfectionist." And I have to agree with him.

DP: *Is there anything you'd like those who view your photos to know about you or to know about modeling?*

WA: Well, often people ask me about shooting with all the beautiful models. I have to say it's fun but very professional, and tons of hard work. So, nothing comes easy.

Readers, you will want to check out Wander's wonderful photographs.

Visit:

Website: wanderbookclub.com and www.wanderaguiar.com

Facebook: WANDERBOOKCLUB

Twitter: WANDER AGUIAR

INSTAGRAM: @WANDERAGUIAR_PHOTOGRAPHY

Debra Parmley is a hybrid multi-genre romance author who believes "Every day we are alive is a beautiful day." She likes to give her readers and her story people a story with a happy ending. A world traveler, she has often brought home folk tales and music from countries she has visited.

Debra's Cover Model Corner interviews can also be found in back issues of *Affaire de Coeur* magazine and on <https://covermodelcorner.wordpress.com/>.

Visit www.debraparmley.com for more about Debra.



This issue the second Spotlight Interview is on ...

C.A. Szarek

*USA Today bestselling, award winning author of romantic suspense, epic and historical fantasy romance, C.A. loves to dabble in different genres. If it's a good story, she'll write it, no matter where it seems to fit! She's a hopeless romantic and always will be. Risking it all for Happily Ever After is what she lives by!
C.A. is happily married and has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. She works with kids when she's not writing.*

AdC: *When you write, do you outline first, or are you a pantsier?*

CA: Total pantsier. The most "plotting" I've ever done was bullet points on a word doc. I guess that was an outline, after all, but it was a one-time thing. I don't like to plot, though. The times I've tried, I didn't want to write the story, it became "boring" when I knew it all. I guess it's exciting to me when it forms organically.

AdC: *What type of characters do you like to create?*

CA: Real ones with flaws. I like when they're relatable and "feel" real, like they could come off the page. I also love to write strong women, since I am one. I love to write alpha heroes that have more cockiness in them than they need.

AdC: *Tell us about your new book or series.*

CA: I'm working on a romantic suspense series that takes place in Vegas. I'm excited about it and hoping to have the first book done soon. It will be four books. But I haven't forgotten about my "Crossing Forces" series, and will be back to it sooner than later, I already know who Book 6 is about. I also am working on Book 2 of my "Highland Treasures" series. Exciting things and more ideas than I have time for!

Also, Book 4 of my "Crossing Forces" series will be live in Audio soon, with Book 5 to follow! Both are recorded and with my producer!

AdC: *What motivates you for a perfect writing day?*

CA: Probably my characters. If I don't continue their stories, they don't leave me alone. But I love to write. It lets me concentrate without concentrating, really, because when the words flow, I just let it happen and I'm more a navigator than a creator, believe it or not.

AdC: *How/where do you get your plot ideas?***CA:**



I'm not really sure. My stories just come to me. Sometimes in dreams, and sometimes they just pop into my head. I get inspiration from all sources, I think. Like breathing. Sometimes it's latent, and sometimes it's more obvious.

AdC: *What is the most difficult thing about creating and developing characters?*

CA: Probably keeping them consistent so they feel real. This is where being a pantsier can be more negative than positive because I don't plan, I just write, and sometimes I get stuck/stalled and characters aren't so obvious. I usually have



to go back over and plug things in.

AdC: *What is your favorite thing about being an author?*

CA: Sharing what's in my head with the world.

AdC: *How many books do you currently have out on the market and what genres do they fall into.*

CA: Wow, I can't believe it. I have a 5-book Romantic Suspense Series, a 4-book Epic Fantasy Series, and a 7-book Highlander Time Travel/Historical Fantasy Series. All of my series will have more books in them, and I have a few others in the works.

AdC: *Will you be attending any book signings or conventions?*

CA: Yes! I have a few in Texas, where I live, and a few elsewhere. I

have Boas & Tiaras in Allen, TX, on June 8, and Writers on the River July 21 in East Peoria, IL, and HRR (Historical Romance Retreat) in September in Riverside, CA. I am super excited to hang with and meet readers!

AdC: *Pass on some words of wisdom, please, to aspiring authors.*

CA: Never, ever give up. This is hard (really, it is) and if you want it, you'll have to work for it.

Please give us the following contact information:

Personal web page: www.caszarek.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/caszarek>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/caszarek/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/caszarek/>

Authors,

To keep up with the increasing demand, AdC has new reviewers in all genre.

Send us your galleys/widgets at least two months before the pub date.

We'd be happy to review it!



Superior Collision

C.A. Szarek

An Excerpt

“You have *got* to be kidding me!” Taylor glared at the little paper monster under the driver’s side windshield wiper of her government-issue black Dodge Charger.

It had the indecency of flapping in the winter breeze. Like it was waving—or laughing.

“A freaking parking ticket.”

Scratch that.

Another freaking parking ticket.

She hated to admit it, even in her own head. It was obvious from one look at her car that she was FBI—which was exactly *why* the meter maid hated her. And, a little voice whispered, *exactly* why Taylor continued parking in the same spot outside her building in downtown Dallas anyway.

She shook her head at her pride and stubbornness. When working a case, it helped. When she was trying to prove a point she was *obviously* losing, it didn’t. Besides, breaking the rules wasn’t her at all. She needed to pay the two tickets—before they turned into something worse than just a fine.

“I’d never hear the end of it around the office.”

John would’ve laughed.

She jerked, her hand shaking as she reached for the thermal paper.

Stop. Right. Now.

She’d forbidden herself from saying his name since she’d found out who’d killed him several months ago. Taylor would get justice for her fiancé—and former partner—but she’d decided to move on. To stop mourning him and do things like she always had. Like she’d been trained to do.

Get justice for him because it was right, and not out of some sense of revenge. Because the latter wasn’t only wrong, it wasn’t *her*, either. She’d let the need for vengeance drive her for months, and had nearly killed the wrong man. Something she couldn’t have rectified if he’d died. Guilt haunted her, even now.

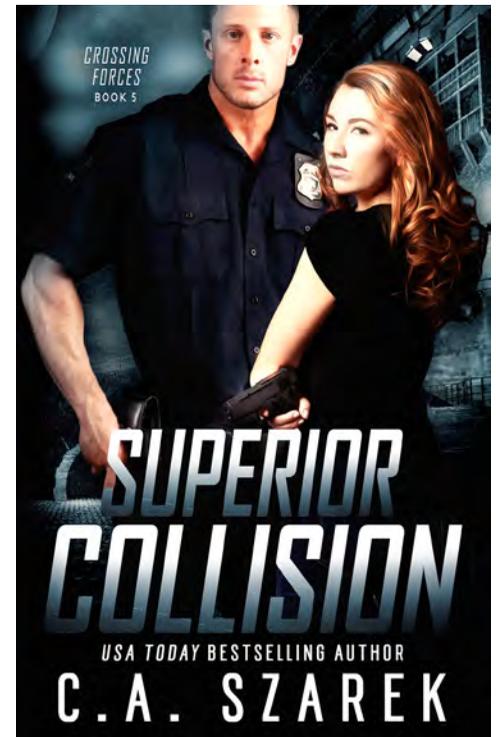
Joe Pompa and what’d happened in that safe house in Antioch, Texas consumed her nightmares. Made her second-guess herself, too. Taylor sucked in a breath and pushed the memories away.

Things to do.

She glared at the ticket one last time before she got in the car. In about an hour, she had a meeting with the federal prosecutor on her case, Ross Catrone.

“Guess I’d better go to Muni Court instead.” She whipped the stupid ticket toward the passenger seat, and snarled when it floated to the floor.

Affaire de Coeur



It was laughing at her again. The ten minute drive turned into twenty, due to the lunchtime traffic downtown. She cursed the whole way. Her day was shit—had been even *before* the new ticket.

Negativity was her new friend, and she couldn’t seem to shake it. Her boss, Matthias Baker, had called her into his office first thing that morning to have the *partner* talk again. How many times did she have to tell him she didn’t want a new partner?

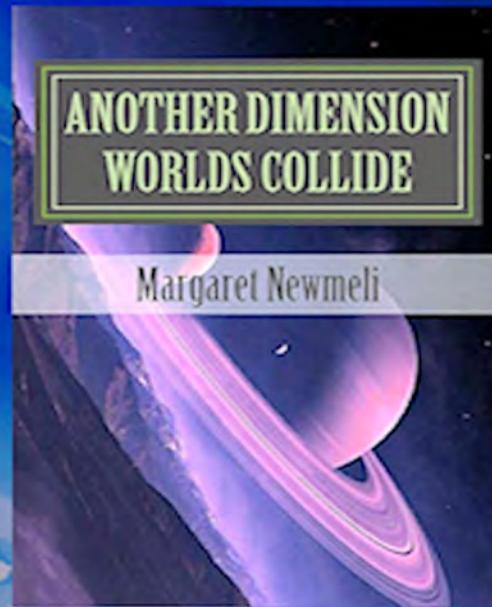
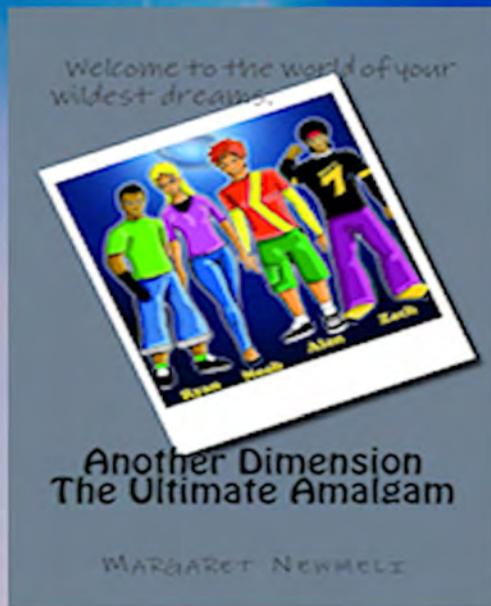
Didn’t *need* one, either.

Taylor sighed and drummed her fingers on the steering wheel as she waited for a massive Ford truck to move so she could park.

When she’d left the office, Baker had hollered that they weren’t done. She groaned when she saw the waiting line to the window clerks. Everyone else had had the same idea of paying their tickets at lunchtime, too.

Taylor waited. And waited. At this rate, she’d be late for her meeting and starving.

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She forced her hand down at her side so she wouldn't stalk her watch anymore. Couldn't stop tapping her leg while she waited. The ticket rustled in her palm.

OCD much?

The shout of "Next!" was forever away.

The clerk smiled in the 'hurry, I'm busy' way as she slid the new ticket in the little slot.

"Can I see your ID, please?"

Her FBI badge was closest, so she held it up to the bulletproof glass.

The woman's overdrawn eyebrows rose, then her eyes moved from Taylor to her photo and back. She looked down at the ticket, typed something into her computer then looked up. "Ah. You

got this today. I'm sorry, ma'am—"

"Special Agent." Taylor tried not to bark.

The clerk didn't even look a little contrite. She narrowed her eyes. "I'm sorry, *Special Agent*. As I was trying to say, if you just received this today, you need to give the court time for processing before you can pay it. It can take up to two weeks."

Two weeks? Seriously? So inefficient.

"Wish I woulda known that," she muttered.

"It states it on the ticket, ma'am."

Touché.

She sighed and bit back her retort. Didn't need to take her bad day

out on the poor court clerk, even if the woman's customer service skills needed a tweak. Taylor took the offending thermal paper back when the clerk passed it to her. "Can I pay the old one?"

"Yes, ma'am. Do you have the citation?"

"No, I'm sorry, I don't."

The woman threw her a look that said, 'really?' Or maybe, 'you should know better'. That penciled eyebrow was arched as high as possible, and the clerk's mouth was a hard line that shouted her patience with Taylor had come and gone.

It went downhill from there.

"Sixty-eight freaking dollars? *Seriously?*"

Since she'd have to go back for



the other ticket later, it was really sixty-eight times two.

She grumbled all the way to the car. Glanced at her watch again when her stomach screamed.

Food or Catrone?

Not that she really had any news to share. Had tried to cancel the meeting, but the stubborn man had insisted on them keeping the appointment so Taylor could ‘update’ him.

That’d better not be code for trying to ask me out again.

He could hound her about anything but *that*. She’d chased Carter Bennett—the bastard who’d killed her fiancé—to Oklahoma and back. There were rumors he’d headed out to California again, where he’d killed two of his own crew, but he hadn’t turned up, despite all the eyes she had looking out.

She needed him to hit a car train or something. If she could prove he was working again—stealing high dollar rides and fencing them—he’d be a hell of a lot easier to track.

Even a single stolen Hummer would be helpful. Taylor shook her head. Upholding the law was supposed to be her thing. Not wishing for someone to break it. Maybe she should call Eddie Vasquez again. See if the LA-based agent had any new info. But the guy was pretty good

about calling her, so he would’ve already if he had something, right?

She tapped the steering wheel then stopped when she caught the action. Nervous tics weren’t her deal, despite the few she’d caught herself doing lately.

Taylor refused to let this case rule her.

She would rule *it*.

Get Carter Bennett.



Happy Father’s Day!

Mordred wanted her.

He would
come for her.
It was only
a matter
of time.

DARK MOONS RISING
BY NIA FARRELL

Out 3.15.19 FREE with KU <http://mybook.to/DMS2>



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Characters from *Game of Thrones*

Louise B. Snead

(I personally thought Season 8 sucked!!!)

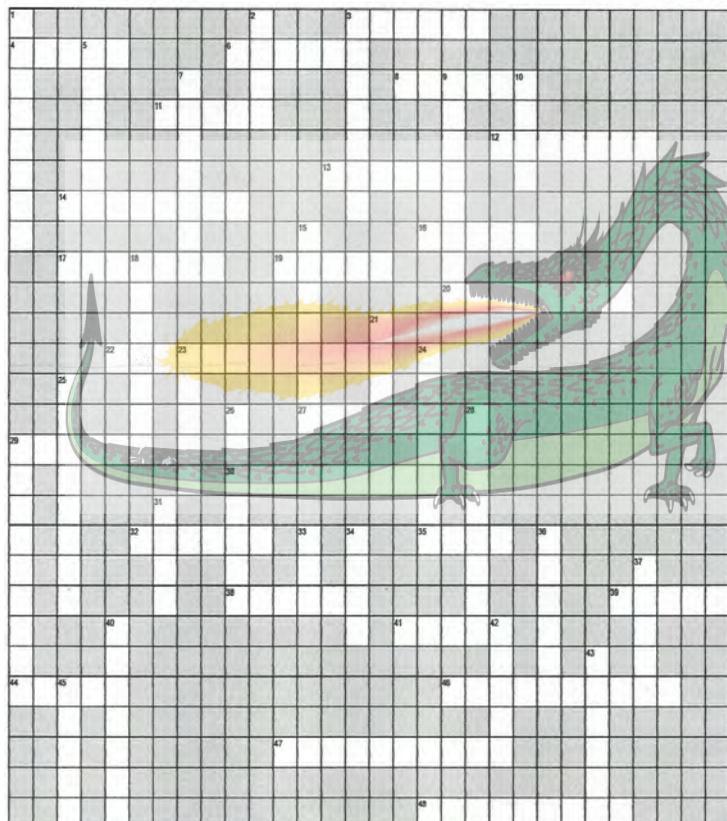
Across

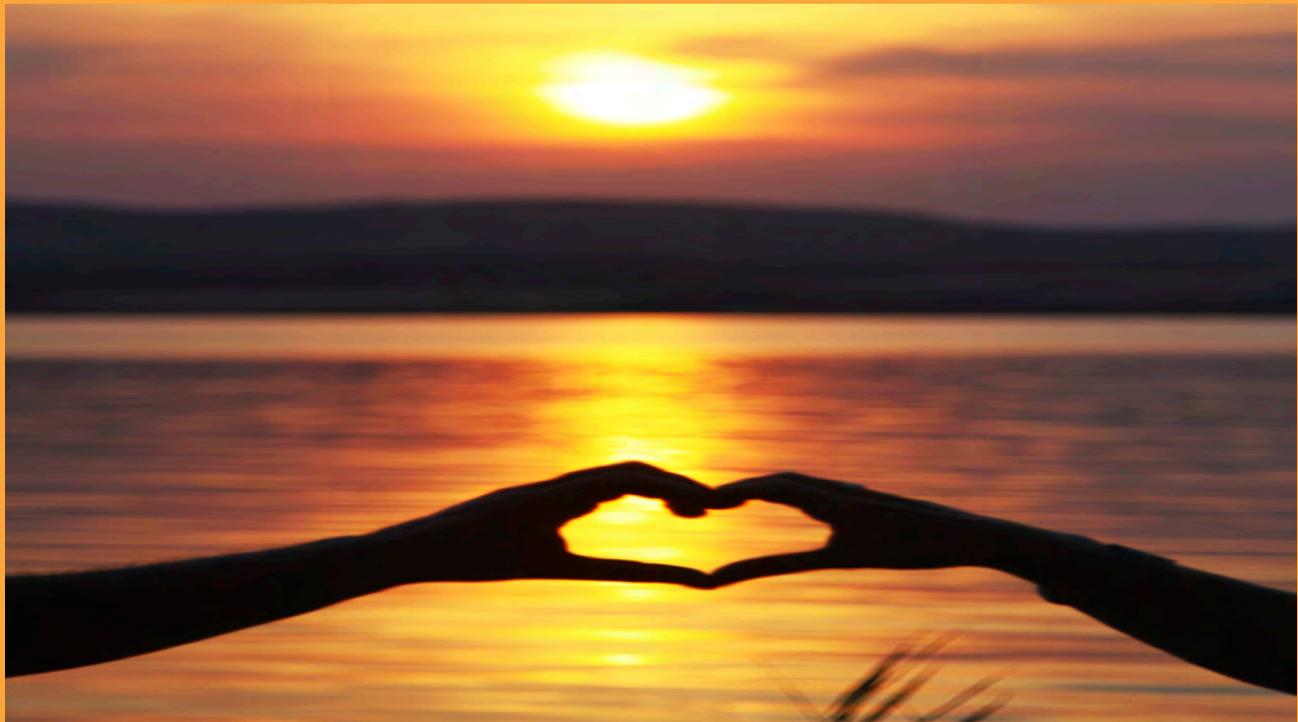
3. The evil queen who had three children by her brother.
4. This Greyjoy killed his brother and captured his niece on his way to the throne.
6. Hosted the “Red Wedding.”
8. Resurrected dead.
11. Sandor Clegane a.k.a. “The _____.”
12. “Ginger” leader of the Wildings.
13. The King’s bastard son.
14. Mother of dragons.
16. Loved his queen though he betrayed her.
17. Got a crown of liquid gold.
19. Name of the queen’s biggest (and favorite) dragon.
20. Gregor Clegane a.k.a. “The _____.”
22. Petyr Baelish a.k.a. _____.
27. Head of House Stark who lost his head.
29. The dwarf.
30. Slave who spoke 19 languages; best friend of the queen.
32. The child king who jumped out of the window.
35. Title of the Dothraki who married the heir to the Iron Throne.
38. The little lady who commanded House Mormont in battle.
39. The Onion Knight.
41. The lord who betrayed his queen and was incinerated by her.
44. The king who commanded the dead.
46. Jaime is a.k.a. _____.
47. The Red Woman.
48. The last name of the king on the throne when the series began.

Down

1. Location of GoT.
2. Bastards who were born in Dorne had this last name.
3. The Night Walkers are his sons.
5. Tough matriarch of House Tyrell.
7. This child was the first to take the throne when his father was killed.
9. Leader of the Unsullied Army.
10. Bastards who were born in the North had this last name.
15. The female knight.

18. Leader of the Night Watch after their leader was assassinated.
21. The female child warrior who has a list.
23. He was castrated by Ramsay Bolton.
24. Squire to both the dwarf and the lady knight.
25. The sigil of House Stark.
26. Cowardly nightswatchman whose brother and father were roasted by a dragon.
28. She married both king children.
29. The House with the crazy king.
31. They killed Ramsay Bolton.
33. Ethical bastard son of the Starks.
34. Stark who was pushed out of the window and became the Three-eyed Raven.
36. Bastards who were born in the Riverlands were called this.
37. Father of kings; he slept with his twin sister.
40. Mother of House Stark.
42. Married the dwarf and Ramsay Snow Bolton.
43. Queen’s lover who left the Golden Company for her.
45. Half-wildling whose son was supposed to have been sacrificed but wasn’t.





Contemporary Romance Reviews

Rachel: a Second Chance Novella

Tina DeSalvo

Self-Pub

Kindle Edition

B7RC42PZ1

☆☆☆☆☆

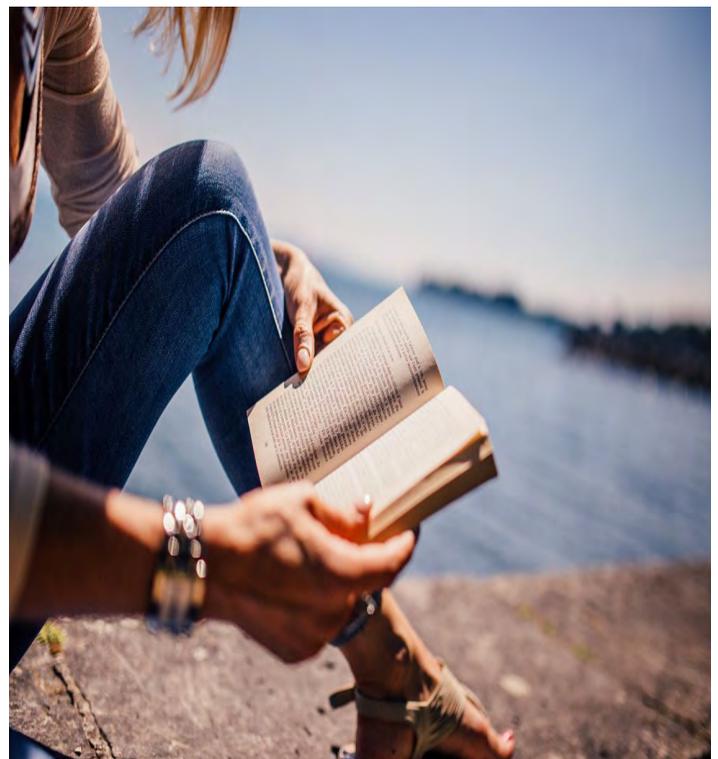


Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Lay say lay bohn tohn roo lay): Let the good times roll!

Traveling from their small hometown of Cane, Louisiana, Rachel knew she had her work cut out for her when she agreed to chaperone her elderly, but feisty, aunt and her friends for a bachelorette party in fabulous Las Vegas. After all, when the bride is a young-at-heart 80 year-old, what could possibly go wrong? Oh, maybe a scamming of the elderly heist, a kidnapping, and a chance meeting of a first love. In the words of Tante Izzy Bienvenu, “What happens at a Vegas bachelorette party, stayz in Vegas!”

Tina DeSalvo jumps in with both feet running in this unpredictably fun, second chance romance between young lovers brought together years later by the most

unlikely of circumstances. Loved and highly recommend!
Sharing what I love,
Veronica





Historical Romance

The Earl Next Door

Amelia Grey

St. Martin's Press

E-book

978-1250214300

☆☆☆☆

Countess Adeline may be a widow in mourning, but her husband's unexpected death unexpectedly presented her with three dear, best friends and helped her discover who she is and bequeathed her the freedom to live life on her own terms. After they open a school to teach unfortunate girls life skills--reading, sewing--her determination to never marry again is thwarted by neighboring Lord Lyon.

Newly independent, passionate, kind, and nurturing, Adeline carries the scars of her marriage to a controlling husband that have left her unwilling to be so bound by another. Lyon's honorable, generous, and content with his life, waiting for love before marrying to avoid the many attachments of his father, who constantly pressures him to marry to provide an heir, and take mistresses for pleasure like him. Adeline and Lyon are instantly and deeply drawn to each

other on a sexual and emotional level. Lyon wants to pursue a deeper commitment, but Adeline's interest lies only in being lovers.

Grey's characterization, pacing, and plot are all nicely done. Although the novel's primary conflict is internal to the characters, *The Earl Next Door* is an entertaining, sweet, humorous, romance that readers will enjoy as the pages fly by all too quickly.

Lacy Hill

When A Duchess Says I Do

Grace Burrowes

Forever

Kindle Edition

B07G74HQB3

☆☆☆

Duncan Wentworth has been given a task of turning a neglected estate into a profitable one within a year. While venturing out on his grounds, he comes across a poacher who is determined to keep his game and eliminate the witness.

Paranormal Romance Reviews



Beast of Eden (Eden Series: Tolba Book 1)

Lexi Post

Self-Published

Kindle Edition

B07P3ZTYF8

★★★★★



"I have never been so at peace as I am right now, knowing you love me."

Scientist/zoologist/discoverist, Xavia Jones is invited to a world full of men searching for their Chosen One. Eden is a paradise to the ever questioning mind of Xavia. Her inquisitive nature is fascinated by a planet full of verra sexy and verra naked men. (Yes, you read that right! It's Eden, so why have clothes?) With men outnumbering the women,

it allows for a more the merrier coupling. (Yup! Read that right too! This is a ménage lover's dream come true!) Xavia is asked to join a group of three Edenists, but when one of her group is exiled outside the walls of the community of Tolba, the injustice behind it causes Xavia to follow him out into the jungle--into the unknown.

Lyka is both shocked with concern and overwhelmed with love that Xavia has chosen to join him in exile. But the unknown that lies outside the safety of the walls of Tolba is enough to cause Lyka to use his Kindred of Eden powers and shield Xavia's presence from others. But there is one she cannot be shielded from--the Beast.

Davos, feared for his shifter abilities, was exiled in his youth. Always alone even in a crowd, he's become both provider and protector for the residents of Una. Una has become a home and haven for those that share the Kindred of Eden ability. When he recognizes his dearest friend from childhood, Lyka, he's caught up in memories, both good and bad. But when he catches a scent of flowers and a woman,

the Beast within recognizes that which could finally bring them peace.

Xavia and Lyka see Davos' longing for love, but will the Beast be too much for them to form a true bond, or will it be last piece of the puzzle that connects and makes three become one?

Lexi Post has created a mystical world where lovers care deeply for their beloved as well as each other. To live each day discovering new wonders and finding love is just the type of story I'll never tire of reading. Highly recommend Lexi Post's *Beast of Eden!* While this is part of her "Eden" series, it may be read stand alone, but Reader be warned, it will make you want to go back and read the other stories in the series!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Betrayed

Ester Lopez

Writing and Photographic Services

E-book

B07NRN5XT2

★★★★ 1/2

Keely McGuire is comfortable as an FBI agent in her post in the White House. Her boyfriend David is a reporter and treats her nice, but she realizes how little she actually knows about him. Meanwhile, deep in space at the Vaedra System, a decision has been made by the Vaedra System Council of Nations and Interplanetary Space Patrol (ISP) to go to Earth to introduce themselves and start trade. Lieutenant Tremol and company is convinced that they should bring the representatives in a space battleship. Adam Davis of Earth ancestry in the group has hunches that always come true and this was no exception as they meet an adversary when arriving into the Solar system.

Keely meets with her parents and they ask many questions about aliens and UFOs. She decides to do research for them to get to the bottom of their anxious feelings about the matter. Keely's eyes are opened while back on the job in D.C., when a cloaked spaceship lands on the lawn of the White House, opens the door and the emissaries come to meet the President for trade talks. They also ask what has become of another ship they sent to NASA in Florida. Their concerns deepen immensely when finding the President has no knowledge of the incident. The President's concerns also deepen immensely when his research finds a hidden military within his own country.

Keely assists with the visitors and now has to deal with the realization that aliens are real and her parents may really have been abducted. She is betrayed by her boyfriend David who leaks a press report he had no rights to and Keely

Paranormal

loses her job. On the battle cruiser, Admiral Esrith has had enough and has given Earth 24 hours to produce the missing crew or the Earth will be destroyed. It is discovered another alien race has been at work for some time getting Earth ready for conquest. The other race, the grays as they are called, are telepathic. It will be difficult to deal with them. In the meanwhile, Keely finds love with one of the visitors.

The story keeps a good pace while alternating between converging stories in the beginning. The science fiction does not stray into fantasy and the interest is kept satisfied throughout. It is a stand-alone story with characters and situations stemming from her other works. Ester Lopez stories go from great to greater.

Lauren Calder

Garrett's Ghost

Pamela Ackerson

Self-published

Trade Paperback

978-1096019138

★★★★

I found this book to be very interesting.

It incorporates many fun topics like ghosts, murder, love story, time travel, and of course, Texas Rangers. The deeper story is that of love in healing. I could not put the story down and had to complete it to see how it wrapped up. The writing was such that I found myself fully engaged in the story and hoping that things were going to work out for the "good guys". With the backdrop of murder, I found myself incredibly anxious through the entire work.

This is a really good read. There were some unfulfilled characters and sub-plots that I look forward to hearing about in coming works.

Guest Reviewer~ Lee Arrowood

Paranormal

Living in Shadows

Anna Volk

DCL Publications, LLC

Ebook

978-1732374256

☆☆☆

Walking in Shadows: Jilly

"She was a temptation he'd never expected."

Jilly is known by everyone as an animal advocate, and is always in the woods saving lost bear cubs and other wild life from poachers and hunters. On one of her many rescues, Dylan stumbles upon Jilly and her wolf Sable. Dylan has harbored a secret love for Jilly, and jumps at the chance to ask her out and to give their relationship a chance. But Jilly is hiding a secret of her own, and while her heart longs for a companion, she wonders if Dylan will be able to love her--all of her and all that comes with loving a shifter.

"Walking in Shadows" is Jilly's story in the *Living in Shadows* collection. Jilly and Dylan's romance sets the stage for Anna Volk's take on life lived among shifters. Would recommend to fans of this genre.

Hiding in Shadows: Savannah

"She would fight for her freedom or die trying. Death was preferable to what she had learned loving was."

Savannah was a victim of pack law, and retreats within her wolf form to stay hidden. Known as Jilly's pet wolf, Sable, she gradually comes to terms with what was done to her and forgives their alpha. But the fear stays embedded, and when Jilly leaves to honeymoon with her love Dylan, she is left in the hands of Dylan's friend, Jimmy. As Sable, she's able to get to know Jimmy, and start to heal, to once again be able to trust a man, and perhaps find her own true love.

Jimmy hates wolves and can't believe he's been asked to babysit one while Dylan and Jilly are out of town. But there is something alluring and somewhat familiar about Sable, and Jimmy lets his guard down. But when the truth of Sable's identity becomes known, he must make a choice to set aside his prejudices and love all of Savannah or let her go and miss what could be his one true mate.

"Hiding in Shadows" is a continuation of Anna Volk's shifter romance series, *Living in Shadows*. Jimmy's and Savannah's story is one of acceptance and forgiveness

after tragedy. Would recommend to fans of this genre.

The Hunter

"We have each other."

Cassandra and Michael have grown from being friends to lovers, and on a beautiful day in a meadow, Michael looks upon his beloved and asks her to be his wife. But even on the best of days, tragedy can strike. Michael's half-brother and pack leader, Justin, has made the decision to make Cassandra his--even at the cost of Michael's life.

"The Hunter" is a quick but action packed story in Anna Volk's shifter romance series, *Living in Shadows*. While I wish it would have been a wee bit longer, I'd recommend to fans of this genre.

Defender of Shadows

"The loneliness sometimes ate at him."

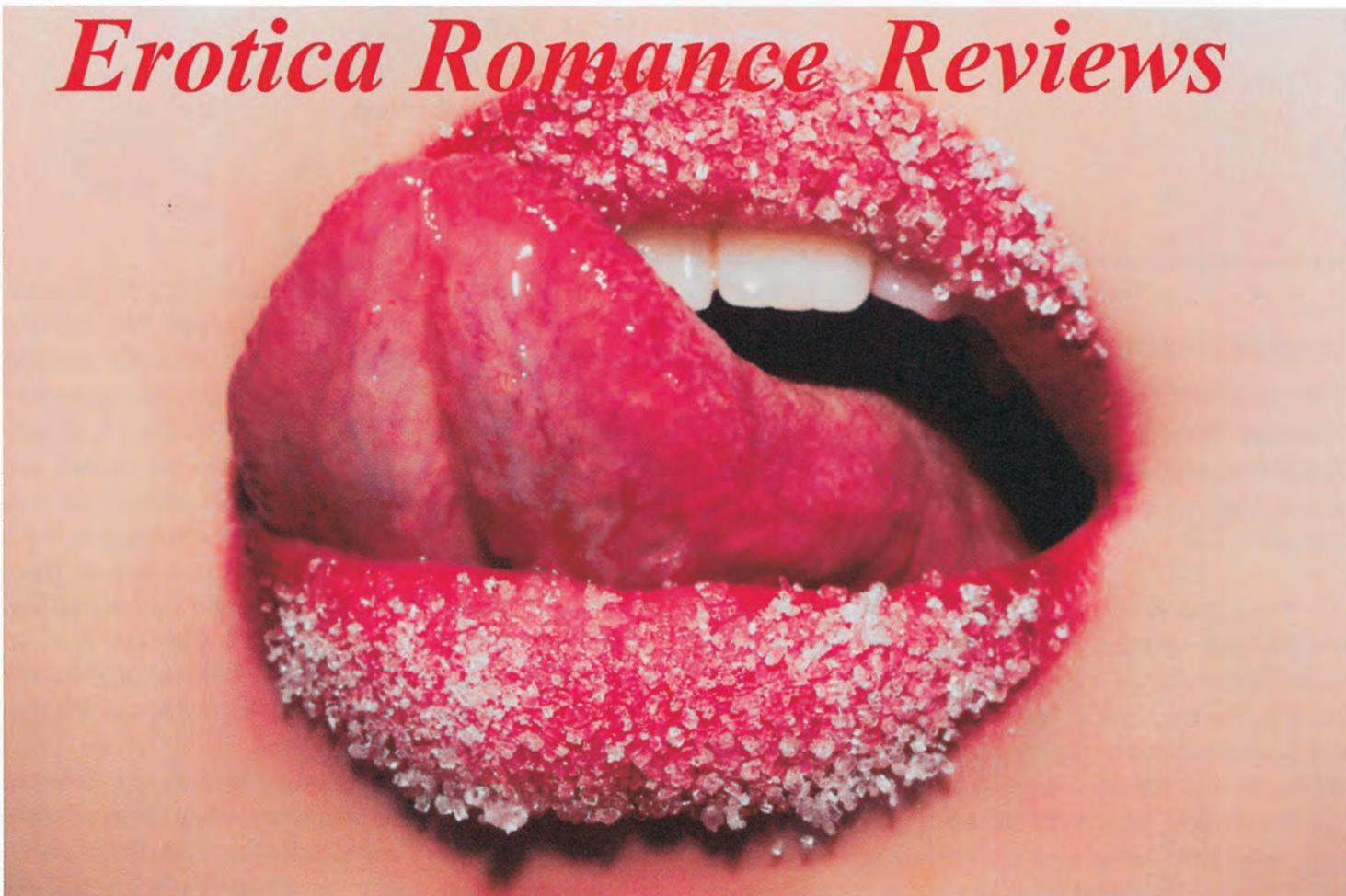
Sanctuary holds different meanings depending on the individual, and in "Defender of Shadows," Marcus finds his in the arms of a beautiful human Carrie.

After reading the earlier novellas in the *Living in Shadows* series, I felt "Defender of Shadows" did not flow with the story arc. I had a really hard time following the plot and trying to figure out how Marcus went from being an alpha of the local wolf pack feared and hated for what he did to Savannah, Carrie's best friend, to a hero for saving Jilly, Savannah's sister, to a weak captive in his own territory.

I was looking forward to seeing how Marcus would be redeemed, but unfortunately, "Defender of Shadows" just didn't do that for me.

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

Erotica Romance Reviews



Red Zone

Shannon West & TS McKinney

Painted Hearts Publishing

Kindle Edition

B07PPTFF8T

☆☆☆☆



"I don't want to be your friend. I want to be your everything. I want to be your friend, your lover, your Dom, because I know what you need. And I will be there for you. I give you my promise."

Kingston Bentley's life seems to be perfect; good looks, good grades, and star quarterback for a college football team getting ready to defend their two-time National Championship title. But not everything golden is what it seems, and Kingston has secrets. While on the surface he appears to be proud and confident, Kingston is hiding so much - especially a need he can't explain - a need to submit.

When Kingston is arrested on false accusations, Memphis, the coach's son, is quickly made the new starting quarterback. While exonerated from charges, Kingston is still suffering mentally and seeks out his outlet to release his pain. The Dom in Memphis sees the turmoil and longing in

Kingston and offers Kingston something he's never had in his life - a chance to be himself. *"And that moment; that moment of acceptance and surrender; it wasn't when life as I knew it was over. It was when it finally, finally began."* Over time, these two rivals come together like jagged pieces of glass; broken and rough on the edges but still fit perfectly.

Dear Reader, I'm at a loss as to how to review this story. I loved it! Beyond loved it! How to convey my feelings in words without babbling is beyond my wordsmith. Without question, if you are a fan of romance, and not the fairy tale everything-is-perfect kind, I highly recommend *Red Zone*.

*Sharing what I love,
Veronica*

Two Plus One

Brynn Paulin

Supernova Indie Publishing Services, Inc.

E-book

978-1623442712

☆☆☆☆

"I got it bad, so bad - I'm hot for teacher." -Van Halen

Erotica

College Math Professor Briony Swift limps along in life quite literally. Twenty years ago, a skiing accident left her with a damaged leg and scars she keeps hidden. So naturally she's at a loss for words when two of her senior students approach her with a little secret they have been harboring - they are verra hot for teacher. While secretly flattered these two handsome young men show an interest in her, she rebukes their offer on proprieties sake. But all the while, her thoughts keep straying to the "What if's." What if they weren't her students - what if she could find at long last happiness with a lover, or in this case, lovers? What if?

After one look at Briony Swift, best friends Nic Potter and Leo Phelps know they have found their mate. Desperate to learn more about her, they enroll in her Algebra class if only to be closer to her. With the term coming to an end, Nic and Leo approach their lady love determined to break down her barriers and have her see them as potential lovers rather than students. When they are rejected, Nic and Leo drop the class and with the teacher/student problem resolved, set out to win Briony's heart with promises of loving and caring for her all the days of their lives.

Brynn Paulin's *Two Plus One* is a smokin' hot story that I enjoyed and would recommend!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica

Unexpected Mission: Sweet Surrender

TS McKinney

Painted Hearts Publishing

Amazon Digital Services LLC

B07QVDZRZ1

☆☆☆☆☆



"If I lived to be a hundred, I'd never forget the way Micah looked at that moment in time. I'd never wanted anyone so badly in my life - never."

Jinx (Micah) is one of the hottest and most sought-after models hitting the catwalk. With fame comes danger, and after several threatening emails and notes, his mother and godmother feel that he is in need of a full-time security team and bodyguard. His father is against it from the start, which makes Jinx all the more in favor, especially when he sees the agent that will be assigned to him and begins to have feelings never thought possible.

Landon can't believe he's stuck babysitting a kid

almost half his age. Since his assignment is a rich pretty boy, Landon assumes Jinx will be a spoiled brat. But looks are deceiving, and Landon soon discovers that Jinx's true beauty lies within.

Landon and Micah's (Jinx) relationship quickly escalates to something stronger - could it be love? Sometimes love has a way of blinding one of dangers lurking closer than imagined, and with Landon and Micah, the consequences could prove deadly.

TS McKinney has woven a story full of everything this reader could possibly want! *Unexpected Mission* is a May/December M/M GFY romance with a touch of mystery and suspense. Absolutely loved it and didn't want it to end! Highly recommend!

Sharing what I love,

Veronica





In the Dark

Andreas Pfluger
Dover Publications

Trade Paperback
 978-0486827612

★★★★★



Five years ago, expert undercover police operative Jenny Aaron lost her sight, her memory, and her sense of honor in a bust gone wrong in Barcelona. She has adapted to the world of blindness and developed her senses to razor sharp levels, now working as a case investigator. She's brought in to investigate a murder committed by a past nemesis, only to realize that it's only a lure into the trap of a much more dangerous enemy, one who is her equal in many ways.

In the Dark is a riveting, fascinating suspense thriller. The character development is top-notch, and the writing is tense, evocative and thought-provoking. Pfluger expertly draws readers into the world of darkness that Aaron navigates, vividly illustrating her keen perceptions that have made her equally formidable, if not more, despite her loss of vision. Pfluger leads the reader into the world of police special weapons and tactics, atypical work that high level police snipers perform on a daily basis that requires

operating at 110%, taking a heavy toll on them. Aaron's counterpart is an extremely dangerous antagonist who is equally compelling. This story keeps the tension razor sharp as the story winds down to a tense and enthralling conclusion.
Danielle Hill

Little Darlings
Melanie Golding
Harper Avenue

E-book
 14434568375

★★★★★



*"The child is not mine as the first was, I cannot sing it to rest, I cannot lift it up fatherly and bliss it upon my breast; Yet it lies in my little one's cradle, And sits in my little one's chair, And the light of the heaven she's gone to transfigures its golden hair."~ From **The Changeling** by James Russell Lowell*

Lauren Tranter has just been blessed by giving birth to healthy twin boys—Riley and Morgan. As with all new mothers, the lack of sleep and anxiety of being a new mom

plays upon Lauren's health, both physically and mentally. In fact, when she swears that a woman cloaked in black entered her hospital room to steal her babies and exchange them for something insidious, no one believes her, and she's left wondering if perhaps she did have a mental breakdown. But continued scratchings on the window, glimpses of the woman in black and the deep down fear of knowing her children are in danger puts Lauren over the edge. How far will Lauren go and what sacrifice will she make to protect Riley and Morgan... a mother knows her children, right?

Little Darlings is an addictive nail biter with a sinister fairy tale undertone. So frightening in passages, I found myself pushing the book away. Highly recommend!
Sharing what I love,
Veronica



A Rural Coincidence

Debjeet Mukherjee

Uditi Prakashan Publishing

Short Story

B07MBNCZD5

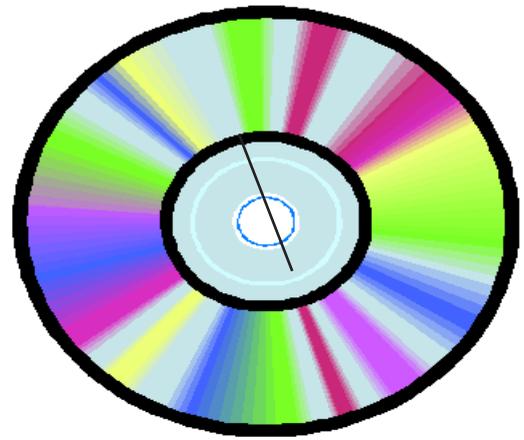
★★★★★



A Rural Coincidence takes place near Bengal, India, near a small village. Sunderlal, a farmer, has decided to end his life by hanging himself from a large tree. The postman happened to be in the area and persuaded Sunderlal to change his mind. That action sets off a series of events that ripple through his village and family.

This short story is all drama, but the style of writing is upbeat throughout. The reader will have no problem wanting to finish. This is one of the writer's first works. I hope he continues and look forward to more.

Lauren Calder



AUDIO BOOK REVIEW

The Butcher

Written by Jennifer Hillier

Narrated by Dan John Miller

Brilliance Audio

Unabridged CD

978-1476734217

★★★★★



At the beginning of this audiobook it is 1985 and the Seattle police, led by Edward Shank, shot and killed the serial killer known as Beacon Hill Butcher. This act led to Edward being glorified and put him on a fast track to becoming the Chief of Police. Fast forward thirty years later. The Chief is now 80 years old, retired and, following the death of his wife, moving to an “old folks’ home” and leaving his home to his grandson Matt. The Chief waxes nostalgic as he says good-bye to his old home, remembering the good and the bad, and the day he killed his wife by smashing her head in.

Whhhhhhaaaat?

Matt had been raised by the Chief and his wife because his mother, a teenager, had died from an overdose. Matt owns one of the

most successful restaurants in Seattle presenting dishes he learned from his Filipino grandmother. He appreciates the gift from his grandfather until he starts renovating and the construction workers find a box buried in the back yard. It doesn't take long for Matt to put two and two together. To make matters worse, Samantha, his girlfriend whose mother had been killed by the Beacon Hill Butcher, was investigating and trying to open the case again. Is it possible the Seattle Police killed the wrong man?

The Butcher is a thriller from beginning to end. Hillier drops little tidbits that explode into bombs while Dan John Miller executes the perfect performance as a reader. It's a Columbo-esque type mystery with red herrings sprinkled along the way. This reviewer could not wait to get back to listening until the final scene was over. Kudos to Ms. Hillier for an edge-of-your-seat, rollercoaster ride!

Mildred Burkett



Children's Books

Ronaldo: The Phantom Carrot Snatcher

Maxine Sylvester

Amazon Digital

E-book

B01N64ZOFF

☆☆☆☆ 1/2

Ronaldo was a cadet at the Reindeer Flying Academy. He and his best friend Rudolph had finished training and went inside to take a break. They were disappointed. The Phantom Carrot Snatcher was at it again. Ronaldo's carrots had disappeared. The two of them decided they were going to play sleuth and find the culprit. As Ronaldo was walking back to his bunk, he heard a suspicious noise. Looking, he spotted a wolf.

Wolves were a reindeer's enemy. But, wait. Why is the wolf crying? What was he to do?

An enjoyable read, a fun adventure, and great for all ages. Perfect to read to your children and a great read for older mid-grade as well.

Kitty Lane

The Undead Adventures of Bone Boy and Ghost Girl

Billy Polard

Self-Published

E-book

978-1090645401

☆☆☆☆

Bone Boy and Ghost Girl are two best friends. Even though they're different in many ways, they found a way to enjoy each other and have fun.

This story will entertain children and teach them to accept people for the uniqueness in all of us. A wonderful gift from a talented author.

Kitty Lane



Late Reviews

(Those that didn't make the last
issue.)

The A List

JA Jance

Gallery Books

Hardcover

978-1501151019

★★★★ 1/2

Edward Gilchrist was a renowned fertility doctor who is sentenced to life imprisonment for arranging his ex-wife's murder to cover appalling misdeeds in his practice. He conceives on a plan for business with the help of his devoted mother and an in-prison fixer: to kill everyone on his "A (for Annihilation) List," which he has tattooed on his arm. And the last name on the list is Ali Reynolds.

JA Jance's sleuth Ali Reynolds is back and in jeopardy in this ongoing thriller series. *The A List* is excellently plotted and suspenseful. The narrative spans nearly fifteen years—a spider web entangling several lives with the convicted murderer and his proud, aristocratic and vengeful mother Hannah.

The character development is equally crucial to the suspense in this novel, illustrating how people are connected by one person's acts. The multiple points of view add necessary layers to this compelling novel. Fans of the Ali Reynolds' series will get to visit with familiar faces, also meeting a new and compelling cast of characters, including the complicated old lady who is bankrolling her son's revenge plot. Edward is much less well-developed, which stands out in this otherwise stellar read. *The A List* is a recommended, page turner suspense book.

Danielle Hill



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Your
Romance*
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